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West Germany - USSR: Foreign Minister Gromyko's indication in his speech last week of Soviet readiness to discuss a reduction of tensions over Berlin has aroused strong interest in Bonn.

For several months the West Germans have been urging the Western Allies--the US, France, and the UK--to sound out the Soviets on their willingness to lessen difficulties over Berlin. Specifically, the West Germans hope to make arrangements with East Germany which would facilitate civilian access to West Berlin.

A senior official of the West German Foreign Ministry has cited the Gromyko speech as justification for moving ahead on a sounding "as soon as possible." The official noted he was speaking for himself, but said he was confident Foreign Minister Brandt would agree.

London and Paris were initially skeptical about the sounding proposal; they objected that it might impinge on four-power responsibility for Berlin and that the Soviets would not be interested. In recent days, however, the British and French have appeared willing to proceed.

Bonn's proposal has had the backing of both Chancellor Kiesinger and Foreign Minister Brandt. It remains politically touchy, however, particularly in view of the emphasis Brandt's Social Democrats are expected to place on the issue of Eastern policy in the September election campaign. In a weekend press interview, Kiesinger objected to the Social Democrats' claiming the credit for foreign policy successes.

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Jordan: The government fears there may be a head-on clash with the fedayeen in the next few weeks.

The arrest last weekend of a number of fedayeen who were responsible for the rocket shelling of an Israeli settlement may have brought matters to a head. Fedayeen leaders reportedly have ordered their men to fire on Jordanian Army units if there are any further attempts to interfere with fedayeen activities.

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against them. Meanwhile, fedayeen forces have moved into strategic locations in Palestinian refugee camps in the Amman area.

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